(vi) the legal liability that the Post Office should accept for its services, in the context of the growing consumer protection trends, and consistent with the magnitude of its services, the conditions under which they are rendered and the relative tariffs.

II. to suggest modifications to the Act to meet the shortcomings brought out in the examination of the Act or otherwise and to serve all relevant purposes in view, and

III. to furnish an appropriate draft legislation incorporating those modifica tions, to the Government. The Commit tee is expected to submit its report by January, next year.

Telephone Connections in Nagpur

77. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHAND-RA JICHKAR: SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending on the waiting list of telephone connec tions in Nagpur city as on the 1st July, 1992;

(b) the number of applications which are likely to be cleared by the end of 1992; and

(c) what is the target fixed for the year 1993?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 23461.
(b) 800.
(c) 3200 (During January 93 to March, 93)

Tenders Bids for Cellular and Car Telephones

78. SHRI MENTAY PAD-MANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure adopted in finalising tender bids for cellular phones and car telephones;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been allegations of breach of tender sanctity in the selection of bidders; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Tender bids for cellular phones were finalised in two stages. In the first stage the bids were technically and commercially evaluated giving due consideration to technical specifications, commercial and eligibility conditions as given in the tender. Out of the 30 bidders who participated in the 1st stage of tender, 14 bidders were short listed and financial bids issued to them.

In the second stage the financial bids from the short listed bidders were evaluated and 8 bidders were provisionally selected.

(b) and (b) The allegations in this regard have been made by one of the bidders who has filed civil writ petition in the High Court and the matter is *sub-judice*,

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections in Guwahati Region

79. SHRI MATANG SING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of requests for telephone connections pending in the Guwahati region as on 30th September, 1992;

(b) by when the telephone connections are likely to be provided to those people;

(c) whether there is any proposal to

instal new telephone exchanges or to increase the capacity of the present telephone exchanges in the region; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 7008.

(b) These are likely to be provided by September, 94.

(c) and (d) Though no new telephone exchanges are being set up during 1992-93, switching capacities of the existing exchanges in Guwahati region are planned to be increased by 7500 lines as detailed below:

Guwahati	— E-10B	— 5000 Lines
Dispur	— RLU	— 1300 Lines
Noonmati	— RLU	— 200 Lines
Adabari	— RLU	— 1000 Lines
Total:		7500 Lines

Installing New Telephone Exchanges in North-East Region

80. SHRI MATANG SING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to instal new telephone exchanges in the North-East region of the country; and

(b) if so, what ar the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year 1992-93, 7 new telephone exchanges at Noonmati, Sibsagar, Rajgarh, Itakhola, Jaipur, Murajhar and Yazali have been opened and 6 more arc planned at Dibrugarh Gogamukh, Pavoi Charali, Sarabari, Khctri & Amingaon.

Poor Public Image of MTNL

81. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel on social audit has gone into the poor public image of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, as reported in the Economic Times of the 22nd October, 1992; and

(b) whether the meetings of the above panel would be held regularly and open to public in order to know the choas in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Sir, as reported in the Economic Times of 22nd October, 1992 the Social Audit Panel for the Ministry of Communications in its 2nd Interim Report has made certain suggestions to improve the telecom services in the country as a whole including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Delhi and Bombay.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Panncl meetings are open to public.

Three Digit Number for Ambulance Service in Delhi

82. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to public demand that the Ambulance Services in Delhi be assigned a three digit number to enable the public to remember it easily; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) A three digit code 102 is working for Ambulance Services in Delhi since long.